

## Could it be the music ?

5 Could it be the music, magic crystals or simply the spirit of peace and love? Though their rich green grass is walked on by 100,000 festival-goers each year, Glastonbury's cows are breeding like rabbits.

The conception rate among the 350 cows at Worthy Farm is significantly above average and the interval between each calving is shorter for Michael Eavis's beasts than on similar farms, according to veterinary surgeons who monitor the herd.

10 Many who make the annual pilgrimage to the Glastonbury festival attests to the fertility of the Vale of Avalon, though skeptics attribute this to the cider and psychedelics.

15 The cows are confined to sheds for several weeks before, during and after the festival. But rather than frolicking on grass, it is actually this stay in luxury that is behind the exceptionally high bovine breeding rate.

20 "Worthy Farm cows are looked after extremely well", said Peter Edmondson of Shepton Veterinary Group. "The fertility rate is down to good management. They look after 350 cows, but each cow is treated as an individual. They are inside for a lot of the summer when cows would normally be out to grass, but they have lovely individual cubicle beds. A lot of the people who go to the festival would be far more comfortable sleeping in the cubicles than they would be in their tents."

25 Could ear-splittingly loud music also help? "Cows are funny", said Mr Edmondson. "They become accustomed to things. I suspect they just boogie and relax."

The farm enjoys a success rate of 46 cows per 100 inseminated, compared with some 40% nationally.

30 The farmer and Glastonbury founder is not surprised by his healthy herd. "Worthy Farm is a very romantic place to be and even the cows appreciate the beauty of the fields and the valley", said Mr Eavis. "The Eavis family have been very fertile. We've produced a lot of children. My grandfather has about 10, my father had five and we've got eight children. The farm is a very fertile place. There's some magic going on here."

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